



Helix Water District

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Setting standards of excellence in public service

June 28, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL Z 270 065 758

Honorable Wayne L. Peterson
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Peterson:

The Helix Water District Board of Directors appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Grand Jury's findings in its May 31, 2000 report "Fluoridation of San Diego County Water Supply." For the record, I would like to reiterate the reasons for the Board's actions referenced in the report.

The Helix Board of Directors requested funding for fluoridation be withheld for various technical and logistical reasons that we believe should have been included in the report. Helix has never disagreed with the fact that fluoride prevents cavities in young children. The District has a legitimate concern regarding the imprecise dosage children will be receiving from the water served by Helix to Padre Dam Water District, Otay Water District, Riverview Water District and Lakeside Water District. In fact, the time period since Helix's request has included written and oral communication with the California Department of Health Services (DOHS) to understand how the State expects Helix to coordinate with these agencies to address these concerns.

The report states that Fluoridation 2000 Work Group notified Helix that funds of up to \$375,000 would be available for the design of a fluoridation system, the purchase and installation of capital equipment, and one year of O&M costs. It also states that the Helix Board has taken no action on this matter as of the date of its April 26, 2000 meeting. The letter Helix received from the Fluoridation 2000 Work Group dated March 10, 2000, offered Helix funds up to \$252,000 upon written approval of acceptance, not the unqualified grant for \$375,000 as reported. In addition, the letter contained a contingency that Helix be committed to ongoing operations and maintenance costs for the useful life of the equipment.

On April 4, 2000, Helix General Manager Donald Kuhl, sent David Spath, Division Chief, DOHS, a letter asking for clarification of the offer and asking for resolution of the District's technical concerns. On May 18, 2000, Mr. Kuhl sent a second letter to David Spath reminding him that the District was still waiting for his response and direction. Copies of both letters are enclosed. On May 30, 2000, senior Helix staff initiated a telephone call to Dr. Spath asking for written response. A response was just received on June 26, 2000. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your reference.

Elected Board of
Directors:
Barbara J. Barber
President

James J. Lewanski, P.E.
Vice President
Harold W. Ball
H. Warren Buckner
John B. Linden

Staff:
Donald J. Kuhl
General Manager

Lynn E. Young
Board Secretary

Legal Counsel:
Scott C. Smith

Honorable Wayne L. Peterson

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Helix agrees with findings #1-23 except for #22:

"The Board of Directors of the Helix Water District was offered \$375,000 in March 2000 by the Fluoridation 2000 Work Group to implement a fluoridation treatment system."

Helix was not offered \$375,000 from the Fluoridation 2000 Work Group. The Work Group offered Helix up to \$252,000 subject to the contingencies detailed above. See attached letter.

Recommendations 00-42 and 00-43 pertain to the Helix Water District.

00-42

"That the Board of Directors of the Helix Water District comply with AB 733 with respect to implementation of fluoridation since funding has become available. "

00-43

"That the Board of Directors of the Helix Water District formulate a plan to obtain funding for future Operating and Maintenance costs. "

The Helix Water District will be meeting with the San Diego office of the State Department of Health Services to work out an implementation schedule.

Helix is preparing price estimates taking into account Helix's current costs of fluoridation with upgraded treatment facilities and is working on other technical issues, scheduling, future O&M costs, and implementation plans to convey to the Fluoridation Work Group 2000. Helix anticipates being able to implement fluoridation within the statutory time line.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Barber
President

Enclosures